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Roger Williams University

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Student Senate Meets to Discuss Information, Plans

On Friday, February 28, the Student Senate of Roger Williams College gathered for an emergency open meeting to discuss the retrenchment of twelve full-time faculty members, the ramifications of such action on student life, and subsequent student action. A large showing of interested students and several faculty members attended to give as well as hear all already gathered information.

Student Senate Secretary Brian Martin opened the meeting with an excerpt from the Faculty Association-Board of Trustees 1973-75 contract. He read from Article XI of this contract, entitled "Retrenchment", which states:

Section 1. "Termination of employment of incumbents of positions which are subject to retrenchment shall be made from among those holding the same or similar positions in the division, area or program, as appropriate."

Section 2. "Under normal circumstances, and consistent with the educational mission of the college, termination shall first take place as follows:

"A. Among the part-time employees in the division or program before full-time employees are terminated.

"B. Among full-time employees, such termination shall be made from those holding temporary appointments, before the

termination of employees holding continuing appointments. Such removal shall be made in the inverse order of the date of full-time appointment within each division.

"C. Among the full-time professional employees, such termination shall be based upon length of full time service at RWC. In cases where the date of full-time appointment is the same, part-time service at RWC will be taken into consideration."

Under these provisions, the Acting Dean of the College, William H. Rizzini, and colleagues, felt justified to notify on Wednesday, February 26 these twelve full-time instructors at Roger Williams College:

In the Business Division, Douglas W. King

In the Humanities Division, Josephine H. Jespersen

In the Fine Arts Division, Robert McRoberts, Geoffrey Clark, Anthony Mele

In the Social Science Division, Joshua B. Stein, J. Philip Schuyler, Paul Jarman

In the Natural Science Division, Mary E. Spalding, Daniel D. VonRiesen, John M. O'Connell, Mark Gould.

Doug Myers, Student Senate President, then spoke on the purpose of the meeting, to inform interested students and to decide on a unified course of action, emphasizing the only real support of the faculty would come from a united student body. He then opened the floor to discussion.

That discussion ranged from the fate of a student with a year or semester to complete in a now non-existent major to a suggestion that pressure be brought on the Board of Trustees by the parents of students. Quite a bit of

frustration was expressed over futile attempts to extract pertinent information from the College Administration.

Two motions were passed by the Senate:

1. That the Senate support a Quill-organized assembly to give students pertinent facts at noon on Wednesday, March 5, and

2. That the Senate form a fact-finding committee which will work with all clubs, and send a report to the All College Council meeting this afternoon, and to report findings and reactions to the student body on Wednesday.

The members of that committee are as follows:

Hal Schorkley, President, Dorm Government, Bob Gabordi, V.P., Dorm Gov't, Dennis Evans, Dennis Farrah, Annie Cover, Brian Martin, Steve O'Rourke, Gordon Spencer, Senators, Michael Connors, President, Art

Core Requirements: Their History, Effect

Core requirements have been a matter of concern between the Humanities and Fine Arts divisions in the past two years. The Fine Arts division has tried repeatedly to incorporate fine arts courses into the admittedly lax core requirements of this college. The first attempt to this end in curriculum committee hearings ended with the attempt, or mo-

tion, being tabled, for lack of information on the availability of fine arts instructors for 100-level courses, and administratively, because "the catalogue has all ready gone to the printer." This took place last spring — early spring.

This academic year the fine arts division has tried again to the same end — core requirements in fine arts for all liberal arts majors. According to Carol Hathaway, Chairperson of the Fine Arts division, "we didn't want to take

the elective away from the freshman student. We wanted, basically, to require that each student take one semester of a fine arts course, any fine arts course, over the span of that student's freshman and sophomore years."

This year the motion was again tabled, for lack of information on the subject. It is now late winter.

A matter of concern over the lack of requirement in fine arts is the dropout-turnover rate in Humanities 100-level courses, and

The Shock of an Immediate Future

by Doug Myers

(Editor's note: Doug Myers is the President of the Student Senate.)

Roger Williams College is a beautiful campus and a creative environment. We all are fortunate to be a part of this community. However it is time to rally in its defense.

Suddenly we are facing a situation which demands our intelligent individual attention. In an interview with one of the most respected persons on campus, acting Academic Dean, Dr. William H. Rizzini, I asked him why twelve instructors were being terminated. His response was, "there are a few factors which

make retrenchment necessary". He went on to say he was limited to what he could say because of the bargaining situation. When all the facts and the Administration's feelings are known, the obvious and unfortunate rippling effect just may turn into a seismic wave.

Certainly no-one wants to cloud RWC's bright future — not now nor in the future. What undertakes now will affect RWC's future. With clear thought (get the facts from those who know) and dedicated, motivated effort, the student body can and must effect alternative action to that of the Administration. Keep yourself in this school and RWC in the black.

'Mean Seats' a Hit at RWC

Philosophy	total seats	mean seats†	# of majors incl. education
fall 1973	248	27.6	8
fall 1974	139	22.1	2
spring 1975	156	18.4	2
Creative Writing*			
fall 1973	119	17.0	19
fall 1974	156	19.1	43
spring 1975	96	13.4	35

†Mean seats is number of sections taught by full time faculty in given areas divided into total number of students in those classes.

*Removing the Creative Writing & Music programs means that the Fine Arts Major is lost — 12 more students have lost programs — total 47 students

Additional data: the following major programs and the number of majors in these programs, require philosophy:

Gen. Business, 143; Accounting, 76; Creative Writing is not required by any major program

Continuations

Senate Hearing

Club, Heather Emmanuel, Rikki Lindsey, Mary Von Gieson, and Gary Dellaporta, Students.

All persons with access to pertinent information are requested to contact one of these persons.

It cannot be overstated that no intelligent action can be taken without all possible information being given to the students. The Senate is to be commended on taking the fore in informing and organizing the student body. When the facts are gathered we should all support a concerted effort, led by the Senate, to reach a satisfactory agreement with the Administration.

Core Inequities

their effect on what is termed by the administration "mean seats". (See chart below.) Out of approximately 600 freshman students this academic year, 217 registered in the fall semester for Humanities 100 courses. Out of that 217, 124 received NC's. That is over 55% turnover, meaning that

that 55% will be counted twice in administrative "mean seats" figures, and perhaps three times or four.

This semester, over 350 freshmen will take the humanities requirement. If 50% of these freshmen fail the course, that is a "mean seats" count of approximately 1000 when there are only 600 possible seats filled at any one time.

What this in effect does to the morale of the humanities professor is another question entirely. When faced with constant fear of retrenchment, many possibilities cross a worried person's mind. A failure rate of over 50% points to serious trouble somewhere, academic or psychological.

The Fine Arts Division does not have this cushion, real or manufactured, to fall back upon. Also, according to Dean William Rizzini, "service" departments, such as English or Philosophy, for which there is a requirement in Business and Accounting, have been given special consideration.

Once again, the Fine Arts division, not having that cushion of "core requirements", denied them by a faculty curriculum committee perhaps jealous of funds, falls short. They cannot be labeled in Dean Rizzini's words a "service" division.

In other areas, especially the Natural Science Division, which is very much a "service" area, the axe has fallen with equal intensity.

Divisions with majors seemingly unscathed by this retrenchment will find that they have very much to be concerned about.

Liberal Arts, such as English, majors will find that offerings in the Science portion of their required "core" have been effectively cut in half by the retrenchment of mathematics and physics faculty. They are left with the choice of biology or chemistry to complete their core.

Business majors with requirements encompassing Astronomy, Topics of Science, and Ecology, will have to find other courses to

fulfill their core.

Requirement courses for a Biology Major, Organic Chemistry, Physics, and Math, have been cut. No substitute courses have been offered.

Marine Biology and Phycology requirements Invertebrate Zoology, Marine Ecology, Freshwater and Estuarine Biology, Ecology, Organic Chemistry, Math and Physics, have all been cut.

As stated earlier, Natural Science must be considered a "service" division. Fine Arts cannot be considered in that category. Both divisions were hit equally hard by this retrenchment, with contradictory reasoning; i.e., as was stated, "service" departments with adequate or inadequate majors, such as Philosophy, were spared, as non-"service" departments, with what the dean considers inadequate majors were hit by the retrenchment.

Dean Rizzini has stated that information important to the Bargaining Unit of the Faculty Union must be kept confidential.

THE QUILL

in conjunction with

The Student Senate

sponsors a

Peaceful Assembly

to inform the academic community on

Students' Rights 75

at noon, Wed., Main Quad

**Senate-sponsored Fact-finding Committee will report
Speakers from Faculty, Administration invited**

Entertainment by Ragtime Jack Radcliff and the New Viper Revue

Anyone interested in working as a marshal for the Assembly please contact a Quill staff member or Senator today or tomorrow, or call the Senate-Quill office at 255-2275.